

Vito Quatraro

From: Shannon Taylor [svtaylor55@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2015 7:29 AM
To: Vito Quatraro
Subject: Fwd: Support for Block Management stamp (HB 268)
Attachments: FW&P block mgmt HB 236 Jan 29 2015.docx

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From: Shannon Taylor <svtaylor55@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jan 29, 2015 at 7:27 AM
Subject: Support for Block Management stamp (HB 268)
To: Kelly Flynn <Rep.Kelly.Flynn@mt.gov>

January 29, 2015

Dear Representative Kelly Flynn, Chair, House Fish and Game Committee,

This letter is in support of your HB 268 which creates a stamp to help fund block management. I was in on the ground floor when we invented the Block Management program in Montana. I was a Professor in the College of Business at MSU at the time and I worked with Kurt Alt who was the Biologist for Region 3, FW&P. We came up with the idea of paying land owners to let hunters on their property and have the nonresident hunters who book with guides fund the program.

Rep. Flynn, as you know the program is very successful and has been since its inception. Many other states have started similar programs based on Montana's model. Most resident and nonresident hunters support expanding the program. We want increased quality as well as increased quantity in hunting opportunities. Block Management can do both if managed correctly.

This letter is on behalf of the Headwaters Sportsman Association which is a grassroots organization started in 1996 dedicated to promoting increased opportunities for Montana resident hunters and anglers. We have over 150 members who are Montana residents. Almost all of us vote and pay taxes.

We are in nearly complete, unanimous agreement in support of increased funding for Block Management (HB 268).

Our members have no problem paying more to expand FWP earmarked programs such as Habitat Montana, Block Management and the Upland Game Bird program. We do not want these earmarked funds diverted for any other purpose. Most of our members think these programs should be significantly increased now. Thus, we support your bill to increase Block Management funding (HB 268)

I know it seems strange to hear tax payers ask for an increase in their fees, but that is exactly what the resident hunters and anglers are saying when it comes to Block Management and the other earmarked programs. Please design HB 268 to meet our expectations. After all, hunters and anglers are the exclusive source of Fish, Wildlife and Parks funding. No other stakeholder groups contribute to FW&Ps revenue.

We also know that no organization, neither public nor private, makes perfect decisions every time when it comes to wildlife management. There is room for improvement with all programs including Block

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Management. But we feel that Block Management is a strong program worthy of increased funding. Increased quality control measures and increased cost-effectiveness can be achieved with proper management.

Please pass this letter on to your committee members.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be more than happy to discuss this bill or any other Montana sportsmen's issue with you at any time.

Sincerely,

Shannon Taylor, Secretary
Headwaters Sportsman Association
PO Box 1941
Bozeman, MT 59771-1941